

ATTACHMENT

Regarding applicant's argument that Chen et al. does not disclose imparting the surface structure of the core to the other layers, this naturally follows from the applying of sheets to a core with surface structure since the sheet are pressed against core, effectively forming them to the shape of the core. Since the layers of Drees are uniform in thickness as shown by Figures 1-3, When they are shaped against a surface with an embossed pattern, the layers would conform to the pattern and have raised and recessed areas.

Regarding applicant's argument that Canady does not teach the three additional steps cited in claim 11, 13, and 14, Canady teaches using a metal foil cushioned via a support layer. This support layer is a press cushion(claim 11), and the foil provides a microstructure(claim 13) since the foil is only 0.003 inches thick and any pattern on it would be very small.

Regarding applicant's argument that Rauch does not disclose imparting a pattern to a cellulose containing sheet, if it did, the claim would be anticipated by Rauch. The question is what the reference would teach to one of ordinary skill and Rauch would teach the concept of applying a surface texture to a thin layer using a contoured core layer. The fact that the thin layer in Rauch is a plastic film and that of Drees and the claim is a cellulose containing layer does not mean the concept would not transfer to a different material when the layer is thin and the articles are similar.

Regarding applicant's argument that Chen teaches away from using patterned paper, Chen teaches that the pattern is applied to the raised and recessed surface so

the image is on top of the texture which provides a very realistic appearance.[0028]

This same concept would apply to a printed sheet applied to a textured surface.

Applicant's prior art shows it is known to apply a texture to the surface of the laminate.

Chen suggests that applying it to a textured core results in a very realistic appearance, suggesting this is an alternative to texturing the top.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BARBARA J. MUSSER whose telephone number is (571)272-1222. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday; alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katarzyna Wyrozebski can be reached on (571)-272-1127. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Page 4

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